GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1108
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
TELECOM FACILITY IN RURAL AREAS
RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not meeting the telecom requirements of the rural areas as on date;

(b) the States where contracts were awarded to private companies for providing telecom facilities and the date on which these were awarded;

(c) the number of the applicants seeking telephone connections in the rural areas of the country, State- wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for proper operation of telecom services in rural and remote rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The reasons for not meeting the telecom requirements of the rural areas are as below:
-Non-availability of suitable technology as MARR technology did not prove to be very reliable;
-Lack of infrastructure in rural areas like Stable Power Supply, efficient road network etc.;
-Inhospitable, difficult and inaccessible terrain in some parts of the country;
-Insurgency and difficult law and order situation in some states;
-Non-contribution by Private Fixed Service Providers.

(b) Licences for providing basic telecom facilities were issued to private companies for Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh on 30.9.1997 and for Rajasthan on 14.3.1998.

(c) 18,86,070 applicants are seeking telephone connections in rural areas of the country. Details are given in Annexure.

(d) The steps being taken by the department are as under:

-WLL and C-DoT PMP systems have been planned for providing VPTs andDELs in rural areas. Satellite based telephones are proposed to provide VPTs in remote and isolated villages of the country.
-Faulty VPTs working on MARR systems are planned to be replaced by new technologies in phased manner.
-Reliable transmission media is being provided to all exchanges progressively.
-Annual Maintenance Contract are entered into with suppliers of the systems.